

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KYL). The Senator from New Jersey.

DEDUCTIBILITY OF HEALTH CARE PREMIUMS

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I would like to take just a few minutes of the Senate's time to discuss an issue of great importance to the self-employed throughout the country, that of making health insurance more affordable.

Nearly 1.4 million children who live in families headed by a mother or father who is self-employed do not have health insurance. If you work for yourself, typically health insurance is very expensive for both you and your family.

Congress has an opportunity to make it more affordable for families who work for themselves by treating them fairly under the Tax Code.

Currently, large corporations can deduct 100 percent of their share of the employee's health care costs, while the self-employed farmer, child care provider, or truck driver can only deduct 40 percent. That is totally unfair.

It is time that Congress changed the law to allow the self-employed to deduct the full cost of health care premiums. Last year, we worked with Senator Kassebaum to move the deductibility up gradually to 80 percent of the premiums by the year 2006.

That is a great start. Most families cannot afford to wait until the year 2006 to get sick. We want that health care deductibility. That is part of the Home Based Business Fairness Act that is also very important in small business.

On Tuesday, Senator DURBIN and I sent a letter to the Senate Finance Committee that was signed by 53 Senators, a majority of the Senate, urging them to set aside the money to provide 100-percent health care deductibility. And we truly hope that they will.

We are confident that with this broad support we can make health insurance more affordable for the families who depend upon the earnings of a self-employed father or mother.

I thank the Chair.

EXTENSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the period of morning business be extended until the hour of 2 p.m. today, with Senators limited to 5 minutes each, with the following exceptions: Senator GRAHAM, 30 minutes; Senator DORGAN, 15 minutes; Senator LOTT or designee, 45 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. President, I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mr. HUTCHINSON pertaining to the submission of Senate Concurrent Resolution 32 are located in today's RECORD under "Submission of Concurrent and Senate Resolutions.")

Mr. TORRICELLI addressed the Chair.

TIME TO FACE THE TRUTH ABOUT CHINA

Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, almost 60 years ago, President Roosevelt, in his State of the Union Address, challenged the American people to not simply be content with our own freedom or our own economic progress but to fight for what he called, a world founded upon four essential human freedoms. He described them as the freedom of speech and expression, the freedom of every person to worship God as he sees him in his own heart, freedom from want, and freedom from fear of attack and aggression anywhere in the world.

There was a sense of immediacy to President Roosevelt's remarks. He reminds us that these were not simply distant hopes for another time, but in his words, "It is a definite basis for a kind of world attainable in our own time and generation."

The world we live in, Mr. President, is largely the fulfillment of his vision on that day. After two world wars and a long-enduring cold war, we live in a time where democratic values have become common, markets are open, the rule of law governs the many nations of the globe. From South Africa to the former Soviet Union, across Latin America, freedom—free markets and free expression—have become the common coin of the realm in our time.

But because these values are succeeding does not mean that they have met any final triumph. We have been reminded that in the fight for human freedom, there is no final victory. That is why, Mr. President, I take the floor today to remind our country and my colleagues that it is time to face the terrible truth about China. I raise this question not because China is not important but because it is central to the issue of prosperity and security in the 21st century. There will be no separate future. The free peoples of the world and those who live in China, because of its massive size, rising military power, enormous economic growth and even greater potential, the question about our own freedom and prosperity and most certainly the security of the United States and the allies and other free peoples of the world are inexplicably, inevitably tied to the fate of the Chinese people.

We have learned in the 20th century the painful lesson that nations that may obtain great economic power inevitably translate that economic power into military means, and that military power invites its own use. We have also tragically learned that those nations that rule without the consent of their own people are inherently unstable and inevitably aggressive.

These are truths we do not want to have to recognize. They are facts that I wish could be otherwise, but there is nothing in the history of our time that would lead us to any other conclusion

and nothing that can lead us to believe that China in any way will be any different.

Indeed, Mr. President, the record of the Beijing Government, for those who would promote most-favored-nation status and those who do not, for those who seek constructive engagement and those who argue against it, the record is not only remarkably clear but largely indisputable.

In recent years, the Peoples Republic of China has shown little to no regard for commitments that have been made under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, the Missile Control Technology Regime, or the Chemical Weapons Convention. China has had a largely open policy regardless of international commitments or responsible policies of nonsignatories by selling technology of a nuclear and missile basis to Pakistan, Iran, and other governments.

In a 1992 memorandum of understanding, China vowed to prohibit the export of any product manufactured by prison labor, but it has almost certainly systematically and knowingly ignored this pledge. Indeed, the activist Harry Wu has documented labor camps where millions of Chinese prisoners, against their own will, manufactured goods for export to the United States and other countries.

In March 1996, the Beijing Government responded to the first ever free election held by a Chinese people on the island nation of Taiwan by firing missiles off the coast of Taiwan, seeking to intimidate its people and its government.

Similarly, the human rights situation within China has continued to deteriorate since the horrible results of its policies in Tiananmen Square. These 8 years later, there not only is no progress on free speech or expression, there is no free speech or expression. Even today, 300 demonstrators who survived Tiananmen Square with their lives remain in jail. Indeed, Mr. President, not a single demonstrator or organizer or individual who spoke in sympathy of the events of Tiananmen Square and was jailed in the days that followed has been released.

There is no freedom of religion. The Dalai Lama remains in exile, a prominent Catholic bishop was recently brutalized, and China has persecuted more Christians than any other nation on Earth for the single crime of worshipping their God.

There is no freedom from want. The benefits of liberalized trade and high import tariffs flow to a small, corrupt, ruling elite while 300 million Chinese live on a single dollar a day.

Finally, its neighbors live in increasing fear of attack. A China that cannot provide for its own people finds the means to build increasing military capability with new technology that it both exports at will and builds to potentially intimidate its neighbors, including the free government of Taiwan.

Mr. President, the facts that I mention today are remarkably not in dispute. Those who even now decide their